

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00140 191101Z

12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 190954Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5958

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

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BANGKOK ALSO FOR BRO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UNFDAC, LA

SUBJECT: UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSES HIS AGENCY'S
PROGRAM WITH PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

REF: VIENTIANE 0125

1. THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY NEWSPAPER "SIENG
PASASON" (VOICE OF THE PEOPLE) OF JANUARY 19, 176,
CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, ENTITLED "MR. PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT GRANTS UN REPRESENTATIVE AN AUDIENCE," RE-
GARDING A JANUARY 17 CALL BY UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) REPRESENTATIVE, ALEXANDRE
ARNAUD, ON THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT. "ON THE MORNING OF THE 17TH OF THIS MONTH,
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00140 191101Z

MR.. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER

OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND RELIGION, GRANTED MR. ARNAUD, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTIC DRUG OFFICE, AN AUDIENCE AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

"DURING THE AUDIENCE, THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONARCHY BY LAOS AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, WHICH WAS A NEW, GOOD REGIME.

"THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE REVEALED THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD A SUM OF MONEY TO BE USED TO ASSIST LAOS IN THE CULTIVATION, IN HIGHLAND AREAS, OF VARIOUS CROPS IN SUBSTITUTION FOR THE GROWING OF OPIUM. IN ADDITION THE ORGANIZATION WAS ALSO PREPARED TO MAKE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND IRRIGATION.

"DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO MR. ARNAUD FOR HIS KINDNESS IN VISITING HIM AND FOR HIS INTENTION TO GIVE SUCH ASSISTANCE TO LAOS. HOWEVER, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT AT THIS TIME OUR COUNTRY COULD NOT YET ORDER THE PEOPLE TO STOP GROWING OPIUM, BECAUSE IT WAS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE, EXCEPT BY HELPING THEM, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TO GROW OTHER CROPS." END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: ARTICLE TENDS TO CONFIRM VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT WHILE THE LAO WILL NOT FORBID OPIUM GROWING AT THIS TIME, THEY WILL COOPERATE WITH UNFIDAC IN CROP-SUBSTITUTION EFFORTS AND GENERALLY NOT ENCOURAGE OPIUM PRODUCTION.
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